

**TOWN OF IPSWICH**  
**Ipswich Shellfish Advisory Committee to the Board of Selectman**  
**Tuesday April 2, 2013**  
**Meeting Minutes**

A meeting of the Shellfish Advisory Committee to the Board of Selectman was held on Tuesday, April 2, 2013, at 7:30 p.m. in room A of the Town Hall. Members present were Charles Surpitski, Wayne Castonguay, Brenda Turner, Linda Alexson, Shellfish Constable Scott LaPreste, Police Chief Paul Nikas and Recording Secretary Marie Rodgers. Elizabeth Kilcoyne and David Swicker did not attend.

**Citizen's Queries** – there were none.

**Shellfish Constable's Report** - Constable LaPreste reported past month's weather was snowy and cold; the river was closed once and all other areas stayed open.

Constable LaPreste and Chief Nikas reported a storm drain collapsed on Hayward Street and the repair activity revealed sewage. The illicit tie in is located upriver from the hot area and not a direct contributing factor. He opined that the pipe installed approximately sixty years ago was mistakenly tied in for sewage. The sewer department will conduct a survey of the area. Kimball Brook neighborhood is mostly town sewer.

In response to Mr. Surpitski regarding condition of the resource, Constable LaPreste gave it a four, (on a scale from one to ten); Ms. Turner agreed. Clammers are harvesting razor clams and getting a good price; this keeps the pressure off the soft shell clams. He opined that all species wax and wane; mussels are on the increase.

Constable reported that 5-10% of oysters harvested have died in the shell and speculated the cause maybe stress from being walked on and other incursions.

Constable reported on grants: no progress for the three in the Crescent; Flat Ground is active; Brian Castonguay will start soon and he was uncertain of the status in the West Branch of Fox Creek. He will provide the Committee with a full report at the end of the year.

Chief Nikas reported two requests for hardships; he will present them to the BOS on April 8, 2013. Lengthy discussion took place concerning the Committee's input in this process. The regulations were cited "...only if a vacancy in existing 125 cap"... Chief Nikas gave the members his assurance that there was hardship; it was agreed to think about adding more clarity on this issue in the future when the resource makes a comeback.

**The Rules and Regulations**

Discussion was held regarding 'out of state' licensing (currently not permitted). It was agreed the resource is stretched as it is and it would be best to save it to benefit the residents. No changes were made.

Permit Restrictions – no changes were made.

**Section 8 – Authority**

Chief Nikas described the selected group of special trained police officers empowered to enforce shellfish regulations. The Environmental Police will not enforce local rules, only State Rules.

Chief said he spoke to the Town Manager about the idea of authorizing deputies in neighboring towns for enforcement issues; TM is thinking about it. He will research “insurance and liability issues” concerning reciprocity between towns. This topic will be discussed at the May regional meeting.

Section 9 – only grammatical changes and zoological names will be added.

Section 10 - Hand rakes were discussed at length and it was agreed to add the language “BOS approval will be based on the Shellfish Constable’s recommendation” with a small photo added.

#### **Rolling Commercial and Student permit applications:**

Ms. Turner questioned why there was a 12/31 application cut off and suggested leaving it open until 2/28 for others that may want to apply. In years like this one, after the lottery takes place there are openings. Discussion was held and it was agreed to discuss timing with the Town Clerk, and return with new language and revisit next time. Discussion took place regarding when students begin to look for summer work. Chief and the Constable will check when the beach begins its application process for summer help.

#### **Commercial permit vacancy procedures:**

Discussion took place at length regarding commercial license holders moving out of town and returning to clam; Constable opined this was a rare occurrence and no changes were made.

#### **Next Meeting:**

Chair announced that the next meeting on Tuesday, May 7, 2013 @ 7:30 PM will be a regional meeting with DEP David Roach and Constables from neighboring towns; all are invited.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

► Ms. Alexson moved to accept the minutes of March 5, 2013 as revised. Ms. Turner seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

*(hereby incorporated by reference March 5, 2013 minutes.)*

#### **Adjourn:**

It was moved, seconded and unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Rodgers

April 2, 2013 minutes were approved on May 7, 2013 with minor edits.